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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Subcommission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its forty-fourth session in 1992, in its decision 1992/104 of 14 August 1992, decided to consider under this item at its forty-sixth session the possibility of elaborating new human rights standards relating to scientific developments which can affect the mental condition or the genetic structure of human beings.

2. At its forty-sixth session in 1994, by its decision 1994/108 of 19 August 1994, the Subcommission decided to postpone the consideration of this item of its agenda until its forty-seventh session.

3. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/91 of 10 March 1993, requested the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, under the agenda item "Human rights and scientific and technological developments", to consider ways of ensuring that the life sciences develop in a manner fully respectful of human rights and to make recommendations to that effect.

4. At its fifty-first session, the Commission considered and took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and bioethics (E/CN.4/1995/74). In its resolution 1995/82 of 8 March 1995, the Commission requested the Subcommission to consider ways of ensuring that the life sciences develop in a manner fully respectful of human rights and beneficial to humanity as a whole and to make recommendations to that effect.

5. The Secretary-General is forwarding to the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission the report in question which could be considered as relevant to the discussion under this item.